



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

February 2, 1967

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellaire, Texas 77402

Dear Mr. Hancock:

I appreciate your friendly note and assure you that I have read each of your articles and want you to keep going strong.

I believe that Matt has more and more recognized the seriousness of the problem involved and wants to do something about it. However, the rules of National organizations, as well as the laws, are completely inadequate, in our opinion.

The Roman and Byzantine forgeries are sold in Beirut, as copies, but then the fun begins. They are die struck forgeries, the dies having been made from six specimens of the coins. The IAPM discussed them at their forgery meeting, in June, 1966, but since their meetings are closed to nonprofessional people, I know what took place only by hearsay. These forgeries were discussed and so far as I know no one has written them up for the public's benefit and we feel this is a very neglected situation. I have seen these pieces in London but they cannot be imported legitimately.

As you may know, I am now involved as a witness in the PMG arbitration hearing on an 1853 U.S. Assay Office of Gold \$20 piece alleged by the complainant to be a forgery. When a decision is reached we believe it has to be published as many other pieces are in the same category and many people are awaiting the decision. The decision will probably be reached by the time of the ANA convention, in Florida, so your forum might have quite a topic for discussion. The probabilities are that I will not be there as I am attending the International Numismatic Congress, in Copenhagen. Thank you for asking me to be on the forum.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St Louis 5, Missouri

Page 2  
Mr. Virgil Hancock

February 2, 1967

I note that you believe that the number of coin dealers will be small who will want to be educated on fakes. I am sorry to tell you I agree. Many of the dealers want no part of the subject, prefer noninvolvement, prefer to sell whatever they get, and let the buyer beware. Collectors are the ones who are interested in learning about forgeries.

Getting facts on fakes is rough and you will soon be "in the dog house", as we are. We have noticed a general feeling that disclosure of forgeries and alterations undermines values of genuine coins. This is ridiculous, but such is life.

Please feel free to write us any time.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/stb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

February 6, 1967

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellaire, Texas 77402

Dear Mr. Hancock:

It might be of interest for you to publish in one of your articles the fact that counterfeit United States gold dollars are being sold at auction by a large auction house by the name of Wallis & Wallis, Lewes, England. I have visited this auction house and talked to the cataloguer, etc.

I am enclosing a photocopy of Lots 227 through 229, inclusive, of the November 30, 1966 sale which states that these items are modern restrikes. This, of course, is a gross misstatement and the very fact that they are willing to sell fraudulent counterfeits of this type is outrageous. This is no different, of course, from the selling of fakes in this country by selling them as die trials, reproductions, copies, and what-have-you. All they do is hurt numismatics.

The information from the Wallis & Wallis catalogue comes to me from Jerome L. Goldman, of Daytona Beach, Florida, to whom credit should be given if you mention any source of the information, but do not use his name unless he agrees to it.

I am sure you agree with us that no fakes of any kind should be sold at auction or by dealers as they always end up in the wrong hands and constantly reappear to cause more havoc.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPM/atb

CC: Mr. Jerome L. Goldman  
Box 5397  
Daytona Beach, Florida 32105



THE

*Statler Hilton* LOS ANGELES  
COMPLETELY AIR CONDITIONED

930 Wilshire Boulevard • Los Angeles, Calif. 90017

Box 936  
Bellaire, Texas  
77401  
Febr. 8, '67

Good Morning, Mr. Newman —  
Yours of the 6<sup>th</sup>, about  
Wallis & Wallis — can you  
please lend to me that auction  
catalog of Nov. 30, '66 sale?

Or, if Mr. Goldman has it,  
I'll write to him promptly  
upon my return to Bellaire  
on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

In haste, but many thanks for  
the tip! Regards. Sincerely yours  
*Virginia Hancock*

February 13, 1967

MEMORANDUM

TO Mr. Virgil Hancock

FROM Eric P. Newman

Dear Mr. Hancock:

As requested in your letter of February 8, 1967, I enclose the auction catalogue of Wallis & Wallis of the sale of November 30, 1966.

Please return it in due course.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/stb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

February 27, 1958

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellaire, Texas 77402

Dear Virgil:

Thank you, very much, for sending me the replica of the Parsons \$20 bar for examination. We would like to obtain one but, as you know, we will not pay for one as a matter of principle. Do you know who distributes them, as we will have no hesitancy in writing and asking for one, unless you want to.

I was sorry to learn about the troubles you are having with ANAT. Many of the dealers don't want any organization, or anybody, to declare things fakes and don't want any publicity with respect to it. The matter of business morals, from their point of view, is not even considered. The problem is that values, in general, would be depreciated by undermining confidence. It is a pitiful situation, as you point out.

I happen to be a member of the ANA committee entitled "Bureau of Numismatic Investigation". Perhaps you are on it. I am very much interested in finding out what that committee is going to do and if it is in any way overlapping the plans for ANAT.

For many years I have been urging numismatists and their organizations to prohibit the sale of any kind of copies or fakes, and to throw people out who did. I even set up a platform for TAMS many years ago. Nothing was ever approved, but I am not disillusioned.

I appreciate the fact that you have been quite open and honest with me.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

ETM/atb



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

March 15, 1968

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellairs, Texas 77402

Dear Virgil:

I am returning the false Parsons bar which you were kind enough to lend to me.

Your expressions of disgust as to the failure of the numismatic fraternity to face the issue of forgeries is very justified and I could write a whole thesis as to what is going on. There seems to be a fear that publicity with respect to forgeries would depress coin prices generally.

I was put on the BONI committee of the ANA and I am not sure whether it is the intention of John Pittman or the ANA to turn over authentication matters to the organization of which you are a trustee, assuming that its formation is financed. In my opinion the ANA would be "passing the buck" and the BONI committee would then be of little value.

I am also enclosing some correspondence relating to another forgery of the bar.

I can't figure it all out; maybe you can.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb



May 4, 1968

Mr. Wayne Lawrence  
Advertising Manager  
World Coins  
Box 150  
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Good Morning, Wayne -

Your seven gold alleged Colombia cinco pesos pieces (VII Y 118/56) are going to you by separate, registered mail.

Most of them look pretty good, under an ordinary, hand-held magnifying glass.

They all look lousy under a good stereoscopic 30-power microscope.

I wouldn't buy any of them. And, if I owned them, I wouldn't offer them for sale.

Specifically, under the stereo 'scope, here is what causes my opinion:

1924 . . . Obverse - cast texture on most of the denticles (teeth) at edge.  
Blurred juncture of most letters and field. Accumulated cast metal between and around the petals of the 5-petal flowers.

Reverse - Indistinct juncture of "2/3" and field. Same as to 5-petal flowers, with casting accumulation alongside 5:00 o'clock petal of the flower to your left. Cast texture at many spots of rim.

Edge - Cast texture at many spots in bottom of grooves.

1925a . . . Basically, same story as the 1924 cast piece.

1925b . . . " " " " " " " "

Obverse - In addition, what at first appears to be a die-break running from denticle through "5" of "1925" may or may not have been a die-break on the original pattern coin but, in either case, in this instance the counterfeiter's mold cracked at that point, producing a fin on the coin, with an undercut profile which could not be produced by die-striking.

Fin

COIN

FF  
#1803/1804

FF  
#1805/1806

FF  
#1807/1808

Page two.

Mr. Wayne Lawrence

May 4, 1968

Had this 1925 b piece been die-struck with a cracked die, the ridge of metal would have had walls at right angles to the field.

Reverse - Lower half of field is loaded with casting texture.

FF  
#1809/1810  
1927 . . . Basically, same as the 1924 cast piece.

FF  
#1811/1812  
1928 . . . " " " " " " "

Obverse - Cast texture between many denticles. If coin were cleaned, more cast symptoms likely would appear.

FF  
#1813/1814  
1929 . . . Basically, same as the 1924 cast piece.

Obverse - Note REPUBLICA, above the "E" and between the "E" and "P" you see cast accumulation of metal. Face, hair, neck of Bolívar especially heavy with cast texture.

Edge - Grooves particularly bad.

FF  
#1815/1816  
1930 . . . Basically, same as the 1924 piece.

Obverse - Entire field and head of Bolívar have extremely heavy cast texture.

Reverse - Same heavy cast texture.

Edge - Into the edge (at bottom of "L" in "LEY" on reverse) is a deep casting hole.

It is my opinion that, to try to hide the cast texture of the edge-grooves, an attempt has been made to machine the grooves on the edges of each of these seven cast counterfeits. That's my one-man's opinion, and I'll bet that x-ray diffraction examination will bear me out.

Sorry, Wayne, to have to hand you such an adverse opinion, but that's the way I see 'em.

Regards, and best o' luck !

Sincerely yours,

Virgil Hancock  
grm



Coins for the traders  
of the world.

VIRGIL HANCOCK  
Box 936  
BELLAIRE TEXAS 77402 USA

August 30, 1968

Mr. Russell Kulau, Editor  
World Coins  
Box 150  
Sidney, Ohio 45365

Good Morning, Russ -

Yours of the 28th, with copy of Dr. Clain-Stefanelli's letter to you of August 20, brings this, my admittedly non-expert, response.

1. The film-negatives of the two specific Colombia gold coins . . . one 1913 cinco pesos, one 1913 2-1/2 pesos . . . which you sent to me and which we photo'd, I believe, near the end of December '67, are in the possession of Mr. Fred Frank, Box 7120, Ocean Beach Station, San Diego, California 92107. (Mr. Frank, then of Houston, has done all of my coin-photography for several years, but moved to San Diego June the first of this year.)

Those film-negatives are Mr. Frank's Nos. 1528, 1529, 1530, 1531, 1532, 1533, 1534 . . . several shots made under differing lighting, some through an enlarging glass, some one-to-one size for contact printing.

Those films never have been printed, but prints would reveal:

- a. Are these the identical specimens Superior sent to Colombia for report?
- b. " " " " " sent to The Smithsonian?

In any case, Russ, it was my opinion that the two coins you then sent to me were cast counterfeits.

(By the way, since then, I've received from another publisher a group of equally well cast counterfeit gold pieces of Ecuador.)

2. Following his letter to me of April 25, 1968, Mr. Wayne Lawrence (World Coin's advertising manager) sent to me for examination seven Colombia gold 5-peso coins.

Those seven coins also were photo'd . . . but are not yet printed . . . and are Mr. Frank's film Nos. 1803 through 1816, inclusive.

Member, American Numismatic Association  
Fellow, American Numismatic Society  
Fellow, Royal Numismatic Society

Member, American Numismatic Association  
Member, Royal Numismatic Society  
Member, Royal Coin Dealers Association

Page two.

Mr. Russell Rulau  
August 30, 1968

3. I didn't keep a record of the counterfeit "symptoms" of the two coins you, Russ, sent me in December, but I did keep a record and did report to Wayne (my letter to Wayne of May 4, 1968, of which I now enclose Xerox copy) of those symptoms.
4. In Los Angeles at C.O.I.N. on the 16th of this month, Larry Goldberg of Superior told me he'd sent two of the gold coins to Colombia, and had received them back, sealed as part of the Colombian lad's authentication certificate.
5. I have no way of knowing . . . without comparing with Fred Frank's films . . . whether or not any of the nine coins I've examined . . . and pronounced in my opinion to be cast counterfeits . . . were sent either to Colombia or The Smithsonian.
6. It's my one-man's guess that the lad in the Colombia museum or mint did not examine the coins . . . if they are two of the same coins I examined . . . with a 30-x stereo 'scope or, if he did, he didn't know a symptom of casting when he saw one.
7. Nobody ever has hinted that I might have "switched" coins on 'em, and, to make certain that nobody ever does so hint, I long have had a rigid practice never to open a parcel or envelope suspected of containing coins unless some disinterested person (not a relative nor employee of mine) is present to extract the coins, to examine them under a 10-x hand magnifier, to jot down each coin's distinctive, identifying points. The enclosed Xerox copy of such notation covers the seven coins received from Wayne Lawrence. The listed "edge dent" and "edge dent and discoloration" and "scratch" notation may aid you in identifying the coins received from Colombia or The Smithsonian.
8. You are at liberty to make use of these comments, Russ, in any way you wish. I'm sending today a carbon copy to The Smithsonian.
9. If anyone wishes to make a little . . . or a large . . . wager on the accuracy of my listing of the cast "symptoms" on the specific coins I examined and had photo'd, I'm ready, willing, and able!

That's all for now. Except to mention Leonard Forrer (Amsterdam), Eric Newman (St. Louis), George Muller (Spink's), as other possible men to examine the coins in question.

Regards, Russ.

Sincerely yours,

Virgil Hancock  
grm



Coins for the traders  
of the world.

VIRGIL HANCOCK  
BOX 936  
BELLAIRE, TEXAS 77402, USA

September 7, 1968

Mr. Eric Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Good Afternoon, Eric -

Two items . . .

1. If you feel that there exists a need for a competent, authoritative service for the authentication of coins . . . and don't ask me the details of how ANAT would accomplish all that, because it seems fruitless to spend time on modus operandi unless and until ANAT has the fifty grand in the bank with which to start looking for a director and locale . . . and since the name of Eric Newman promptly brings the reader of any publication smartly to attention, one of these days would you put together your thoughts in support of some sort of authentication service?

"Coin World" and/or "The Numismatist" would be the most effective outlets for such propaganda, I'd think. Anyway, after nine months of trying, we've only some \$11,000 toward the needed \$50,000 . . . thus I felt that Eric Newman's public support for the venture would be helpful. But . . . and I mean this . . . if you think the proposed program is not desired, don't be bashful, but put that in print if you wish, Eric.

So much for that.

2. As you'll see from my letter of August 30 to Russ Rulau, I suggested your name as one to examine some Colombia gold pieces. Should you receive those coins, you then might be interested in the enclosed copy of letter of May 4, '68 to Wayne Lawrence, "World Coins" advertising manager. The magazine had refused to accept a page adv from the owner of the pieces, Superior Stamp & Coin of Los Angeles. Subsequent to my refusal to say the pieces were genuine, Superior sent two or more to Colombia, and then received a clean bill of health from Colombia.

I could have been wrong . . . and it wouldn't be my first mistake . . . but in this instance I don't think I erred.

That's all for now, Eric, except to send my usual warm regards to you!

Sincerely yours,

Member, American Numismatic Association  
Fellow, American Numismatic Society  
Fellow, Royal Numismatic Society

Member, Asociación Numismática Española  
Member, Sociedad Numismática de México  
Member, Retail Coin Dealers Association

Virgil Hancock  
g r m

(No. 44) Letterhead designed by Virgil Hancock, copying type of letter; established 113 A.D. by Rome's Emperor Trajan, in 1270 designed the type used for this letterhead.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

September 19, 1968

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellaire, Texas 77402

Dear Virgil:

Thank you for the interesting correspondence on the Columbia gold pieces. Gold seems to be the favorite of casting techniques for the present and you certainly must be right. It just shows how important the availability of X-ray diffraction equipment should be as it would clear up altered dates, altered Mint marks, cast coins, muled faces, etc.

We will gladly look at the pieces if Russ needs further opinions. Thank you for your confidence in suggesting our name.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/stb



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St Louis 5, Missouri

September 19, 1968

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellaire, Texas 77602

Dear Virgil:

You have been a shining knight in armor as to your devotion to coin forgery and alteration. Sadly, the practice is increasing, not decreasing. There are more dealers than can possibly make a legitimate living from collectors and therefore stolen and false coins seem to supply the need.

Our lack of support for ANAT by word or check is sincere. It certainly is not on account of you. It is not on account of being omitted in its development or its positions. It is because some of those who say they want it really want to avoid the problem and be non-involved. We feel that some want to pass the responsibility to an organization which has no power to require testimony or to correct abuses. Some have the philosophy not to harm the coin market by exposing expensive false pieces.

One becomes as popular as the plague in being connected with exposures of forgeries, as you know. Do you realize that after we showed why we concluded that the Zerbe 1804 and 1805 Dollars were altered dates and saved the owner a great fortune (the coins are now stolen) the owner never even thanked or communicated with us. We gave a paper on forgery in Copenhagen last summer and we have a file full of European correspondence on it. It was shortly thereafter published in The Numismatist and just received a Heath Award, yet I don't recall receiving any American inquiry or encouragement with respect to its content. We put in months of work on the Berland-Ryan arbitration and related items yet (1) some would not give us requested data; (2) the PNG was unwilling to release the decision to the public; (3) no coin magazines or newspapers published anything about the hearings or the decision even though the hearings were open, reporters and



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

Page 2

September 19, 1968

Mr. Virgil Hancock

others attended the hearings, and copies of the arbitrators' decision were furnished to the leading publications; and (h) Garland never got his money refunded. Many other examples could be cited.

We feel that the A.N.A. wants so much to do what is right. It has many controversial problems which may be more important to solve. It needs greater confidence in its power so its officials can act without fear of loss of support of professionals and amateur members. Maybe the A.N.A. should make the A.N.A.T. one of its own operations and then give it the right of disciplinary action as to ANA members and activities of members.

So, you see, we endorse the desperate need for some kind of an A.N.A.T. but want it to have power to get people to give the facts, get needed coins for examinations and enforce and publish its decisions. Otherwise (if you will excuse a numismatic pun) it may not deserve to have the buck passed to it.

Please let us know your further thinking as our mind is open and our spirit is willing. We know you will understand our point of view.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN  
atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

September 20, 1967

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellairs, Texas 77402

Dear Virgil:

The 1792 Half Disme from which the rubbing was made is a crude fake. The letter punches differ from the genuine. The position of 1792 is wrong. The devices are copied in general but different in shape and size. Device punches were used and thus the devices would be the same in genuine varieties.

I enjoy your articles in The Numismatist, your nice comments about Virginia Culver, your popular program at the A.N.A., etc. Have fun in Chicago.

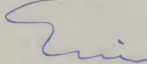
I gave my paper on forgery in Copenhagen and many were interested. It will be published shortly in The Numismatist, I believe. You will be one of the critical readers, I hope.

Thanks to you I wrote Alfred Dieffenbacher and he replied, indicating he didn't know how some of the fakes were made, but gave me data on Dr. Schmidt and other items I wanted.

Do you have a 30 to 50 power lens to see the grains of casting materials used to make cast coins? This would be most helpful in your work. I can't see them under a 10 power lens. You probably have younger eyes.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN  
atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

October 1, 1968

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
P.O. Box 936  
Bellair, Texas 77402

Dear Virgil:

Will you be nice enough to tell me what you know about counterfeit 1955 double hubbed cents. Two were just shown to me which were deadly counterfeits, both having identical scratches, both being die struck, etc.

I am being asked to publish them and was wondering if you have anything on your files to add to the lore of counterfeits of this variety.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/etb

1742 BIRCH CENT

OBV: BUST - FINE  
LETTERING & DATE  
F-VF CONSIDERING.  
RARITY. "NT" OF "PARENT"  
WEAK STRIKE.

REV: LEGEND V.G.  
CENTER OF COIN  
(ONE CENT) PROBABLY  
PLANED SMOOTH TO  
REMOVE INITIALS  
OR OTHER DISFIGURE-  
MENT. WREATH &  
 $\frac{1}{100}$  ONLY FAIR.

CASH

ST. LOUIS, MO.,  
CHECKS

19

IONAL BANK

IT

61 124 00

I Could not find  
an example of  
a Birch Cent  
auctioned in 1968  
by Gracks & Markin.

TOTAL

# SUNDBLAD AGENCY, INC.

112 SOUTH MAIN STREET ISHPEMING MICHIGAN

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Pellaire, Texas 77402

Dear Mr. Hancock,

I'm writing you regarding authenticity of a 1792 Birch Cent (photo-enclosed) in the hopes you can assist in verifying true identity of the one I have for sale. Your name was given my by Virminie Sulver with whom I've had much correspondence, as well as selling her various medals and tokens, etc.

I'd appreciate any advice you can offer or any suggestions in this vein. Thanks much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*C. A. Sundblad*  
C. A. Sundblad

*Does not belong to him*

*advertised in CW about Oct 15 - under misc coin for sale*

*906 486 4609*

# SUNDBLAD AGENCY, INC.

112 SOUTH MAIN STREET ISHPEMING MICHIGAN

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Pellaire, Texas 77402

Dear Mr. Hancock,

In receipt of your letter of the 32nd for which I thank you. The "Birch Cent" is being mailed Wednesday and I'm anxious to hear your report. As far as a value is concerned I just don't know. In fact if there is a possibility the coin is authentic perhaps you could give me an idea of the value. And perhaps you know someone who may be interested in purchasing it. There are any number of people interested and I wonder if it wouldn't be put out on bids? Any suggestions??????????

Whatever charges there are please let me know. If you wish you may keep the photo as I have a number of duplicates. Will await your reply with an optimistic reservation.

Sincerely,

*C. A. Sundblad*  
C. A. Sundblad

*General Insurance*

*906* PHONE HUDSON 6-8931  
November 19, 1968

*General Insurance*

PHONE HUDSON 6-8931  
November 22, 1968

*Last 12-2-68 to  
Eric T. Newman  
6450 Cecil Ave.  
St Louis Mo.  
63175*



Coins for the traders  
of the world.

VIRGIL HANCOCK  
BOX 936  
BELLAIRE, TEXAS 77402, USA

December 2, 1968

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63175

Good Afternoon, Eric -

Here's the alleged Birch cent of 1792.

The only two pictures I can locate of a Birch cent show a dot after the "O" in "OF" on the reverse of one pictured coin, but no dot on the other pictured coin.

In any case, there's almost no field in which I'm as ignorant as that of early American and early USA. Thus my appeal to El Maestro.

Even though the piece is a fake, if it were lost in the mails it would become extremely valuable, so please have it insured on its return.

There's no hurry on this, Eric, but at your convenience I'll welcome your thoughts.

Some day, somewhere, we'll find our paths crossing, and I'll bend you ear about the procedures by which I think ANAT . . . or some such . . . can be most helpful to the hobby.

In the meantime, all the best to you, Eric.

Sincerely yours,

Virgil Hancock  
grm

Member, American Numismatic Association  
Fellow, American Numismatic Society  
Fellow, Royal Numismatic Society

Member, Asociacion Numismatica Española  
Member, Sociedad Numismática de México  
Member, Retail Coin Dealers Association

(Newman Letter written to Frank Freudenreich, 1968) (Type in letter) established 115 A.D. by Roman Emperor Trajan in 1270 designed the type used for the letterhead



December 14, 1968

Mr. Creighton A. Sundblad  
Sundblad Agency, Inc.  
112 South Main Street  
Ishpeming, Michigan 49849

Good Afternoon, Mr. Sundblad -

Your "Birch cent" was received, and I studied as best my limited knowledge of Early American coinage would permit.

Then, I took the liberty of sending the coin to a collector in St. Louis who is knowledgeable on that series.

His name is Mr. Eric Newman, 6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Mo., 63105.

I've asked Mr. Newman to get in touch with you after he'll have studied the coin, and I've sent to him your two letters to me.

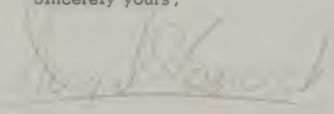
It is a shame that the coin is so very worn, if it proves to be genuine. However, a worn genuine coin is far better than an uncirculated counterfeit.

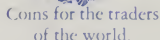
I'm sorry that I, myself, couldn't give you a definite answer, Mr. Sundblad, but I've done the next thing . . . sought an expert . . . to try to get an answer for you.

With all good wishes to you, Mr. Sundblad, for a most happy holiday season, I still sign off,

Sincerely yours,

Virgil Hancock  
grm

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Virgil Hancock", is written over a faint horizontal line.



VIRGIL HANCOCK  
BOX 936  
BELLAIRE, TEXAS 77402, USA

December 9, 1968

Mr. Eric Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63105

Good Afternoon, Eric -

1. You'll find herewith photocopies of letters from el Señor Sundblad.
2. Don't forget to send me the specs and the brass for your coin weights. Walter'll be glad to do the job, working it in between his regular work.
3. Nope, I don't have the June '67 nor June '68 COINage copies . . . have the March, May, July, September, and November issues, but don't ask how come the alternate months . . . must be some item therein to which I'd thought I might some day refer. But no Junes !

So, at your convenience, if you can lend me the '55 cent copy . . . or a xerox of same . . . I'll be appreciative.

Thanks a million, Eric . . . and regards !

Sincerely yours,

Virgil Hancock  
grm

Member, American Numismatic Association  
Fellow, American Numismatic Society  
Fellow, Royal Numismatic Society

Member, Asociación Numismática Española  
Member, Sociedad Numismática de México  
Member, Retail Coin Dealers Association

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 12, 1968

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellsire, Texas 77402

Dear Virgil:

I am enclosing a photocopy of the article in COINage which is June, 1966.

I am returning the two fakes previously forwarded to me.

The 1955 has proper juxtaposition but has a bifurcation at the stem of the right stalk and a dent near the tip of the stalk on the left stalk which are telltale marks on the counterfeit die. There are other telltale marks which are dents on and around the lettering.

On the 1907S, I call your particular attention to what appears to be a die break, but which is probably a die defect on the counterfeit dies, which is a horizontal line extending from the right side of the stalk outward to the border at the level of the center line of the word CENT. I have noticed the vertical striations on the edge but these do not seem to be uniform on this piece or on the 1955.

As to your friend who you indicate is willing to do some machining for me, I will have to find the right color brass to send him before I can let him do it, but I appreciate your cooperation.

Best wishes for the holidays.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/ath

CERTIFIED MAIL

December 17, 1968

MEMORANDUM

TO Mr. Virgil Hancock

FROM Eric P. Newman

Dear Virgil:

Enclosed is my detailed description of the 1955 double hubbed forgeries. These were identical to yours, which you can see on further inspection.

It shows you how important it is to have two items to compare.

Cordially,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 20, 1968

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellaire, Texas 77402

Dear Virg:

I am sending under separate cover a piece of brass rod and a piece of phosphorus bronze as material to make the counterbalance weights for the coin scales. There is also included in that group one of the original counterbalance weights which is the model to be followed. This counterbalance weight weighs between 183 and 184 grains Troy weight. I would like to have your machinist make six additional of these weights out of the brass rod material and one of them out of the phosphorus bronze material.

There are only two critical dimensions on the counterbalance and they are the diameter of the small disk portion and the projection of that portion from the surface of the large disk portion. The threading in the central hole can be of any type. The concentric rings on the outside of the large disk are for decoration only. The bevel is for decoration only, and the outside diameter of the large disk is not critical. The whole idea is to have the disk weigh 184 grains but if your nice machinist wants to make them weigh a few grains more, then that, we can polish off a little material after they get here.

You have no idea how appreciative I will be if your machinist makes these up for me. I have a number of these balances from the counterbalance weight is lost and that is the problem.

If your friend has any questions concerning this matter, please relay them to me, in due course, and I will try to answer them.

There is no rush in producing these little pieces and I know an expert machinist will be able to do them without too much difficulty.

Best wishes for the holidays.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/etb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 14, 1969

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellaire, Texas 77402

Dear Virgil:

My follow-up file tells me that I should write you to inquire whether that nice machinist to whom you delivered the brass and the coin weight has had an opportunity to make some of the little items.

I know it is not very exciting for him but I certainly will appreciate his helpfulness.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb



Coins for the traders  
of the world.

VIRGIL HANCOCK  
BOX 936  
BELLAIRE TEXAS 77402, USA

April 24, 1969

Mr. Eric Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63105

Good Afternoon, Eric -

Yesterday I spoke with Walter Beacham, the machinist, and he's still waiting for me to drive over with a set of balances . . . which I'll try to do the first thing in the morn.

Eric, when 14 months ago I launched the fight against Bellaire city hall (on council's spot-rezoning of four single-family dwelling areas in Bellaire), I never dreamed I'd be spending the time and the cash I've spent . . . and the fight isn't over yet, despite the Texas supreme court kicking us out ten days ago ("No reversable error"). Since then I've been trying to lobby a measure through the Texas legislature, plugging the loophole in the Texas statute through which the Bellaire city council sneaked their re-zonings.

That, and about 20 hours a week on ANAT correspondence (with darned little monetary results for ANAT, for it takes as long to acknowledge a dollar contribution as a \$ 500.00 one), has caused me to neglect my own affairs . . .and your brass weights!

Incidentally, Eric, you no doubt know that The Goldbergs of Los Angeles (Superior Stamp & Coin) are mainspringing a private, well-financed authenticating service, presumably to be announced in June. And Don Taxay a similar set-up in New York. While I'll welcome any authenticating service which would be effective, yet I fear that any such offered service connected with any private coin house will not acquire the support and respect with the collectors as would a completely independent organization, related to ANA and, I hope, ultimately with ANS.

Sorry for my delay in getting together with Walter Beacham, but will get on the ball muy pronto. Regards, Eric.

Sincerely yours

Virgil Hancock

Member American Numismatic Association  
Fellow American Numismatic Society  
Fellow Royal Numismatic Society

Member Asociacion Numismatica Espanola  
Member Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico  
Member Royal Coin Dealers Association

Special permission to freely make use of the signed (personal) name of Virgil Hancock is hereby granted. Virgil Hancock is the sole author of this document.





Coins for the traders  
of the world.

VIRGIL HANCOCK  
BOX 936  
BELLAIRE, TEXAS 77402, USA

May 9, 1969

Mr. Eric Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63105

Good Afternoon, Eric -

Last week I finally hied myself over to Houston and Walter Beacham's machine shop . . . only to find him knee deep in rushing some geophysics machine to completion, so no accomplishment last week.

Then, yesterday, Walter 'phoned and asked about the thread on the brass thingamabobby he's to make for you. Says Walter, the thing just must have to screw onto something, and the thread is not an American thread . . . no doubt a metric thread.

His lathes are not designed to cut metric threads, and he says that, if you'll tell him the exact thread . . . or send the screw which fits into the threaded hole . . . he can order a gadget to run the thread.

While I'm at it, Eric, I can't figure how this thing works . . . all the scales I've seen of the 1700's were simple balances. You called this gadget a counterbalance, as I recall . . . thus I'm curious how come you need more than one, since they all are to be the same weight. Don't know what good it'll do me to add that bit of info into my store of accumulated info, I don't know, just curious.

Regards, Eric.

Virgil Hancock  
grm

Sincerely yours,

Member, American Numismatic Association  
Fellow, American Numismatic Society  
Fellow, Royal Numismatic Society

Member, Asociación Numismática Española  
Member, Sociedad Numismática de México  
Member, Royal Coin Dealers Association

Notice: This letter is not a publication of The Numismatic Society of America. It is a private communication and should not be used for any other purpose.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

May 12, 1969

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellairs, Texas 77402

Dear Virgil:

To clear up the coin counterbalance weight matter is fortunately simple. The thread is unimportant as no screw goes into it. It was apparently used to hold the weight in the lathe for the finishing cuts. No thread is necessary and it can be merely a hole.

Now you ask why more than one weight is needed for a counterbalance. The answer is that I have three scales and a friend has over six scales. My three are of the same maker (Allender) but different style and markings. They are in the 1853-1855 period. They only use the counterbalance when weighing Eagles or larger. They do not use a counterbalance for Half Eagles and smaller gold.

Thanks, again, for taking care of this for me as it is greatly appreciated. I have enclosed an extra copy for nice Mr. Becham.

My congratulations to you on your A.N.A. candidacy and if we can do anything to help get you elected, please give us a green light.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN  
atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

May 12, 1969

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936

Bellaire, Texas 77602

Dear Virgil:

*Took this out to Walter Beacham this morn. He'll get to work.*

To clear up the coin counterbalance weight matter is fortunately simple. The thread is unimportant as no screw goes into it. It was apparently used to hold the weight in the lathe for the finishing cuts. No thread is necessary and it can be merely a hole.

Now you ask why more than one weight is needed for a counterbalance. The answer is that I have three scales and a friend has over six scales. My three are of the same maker (Allender) but different style and markings. They are in the 1853-1855 period. They only use the counterbalance when weighing Eagles or larger. They do not use a counterbalance for Half Eagles and smaller gold.

Thanks, again, for taking care of this for me as it is greatly appreciated. I have enclosed an extra copy for nice Mr. Beacham.

My congratulations to you on your A.N.A. candidacy and if we can do anything to help get you elected, please give us a green light.

Sincerely,

Still haven't the faintest idea what reckless soul or club nominated me for ANA gov.

Two years ago I declined. This year I told Ed Rchette my name could be left on the ballot, but I'd spend neither time nor money in campaigning for votes. If I run absolutely last, my feelings won't be bruised in the least.

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION  
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION  
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

Regards, Eric, *Eric*



Coins for the traders  
of the world.

VIRGIL HANCOCK  
BOX 936  
BELLAIRE TEXAS 77402 USA

May 29, 1969

Mr. Eric Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Good Afternoon, Eric -

Under separate cover are going forward to you . . . insured parcels post . . . a flock of counterweights which I picked up at Walter Beacham's machine shop this afternoon.

Walter says he over-ran a couple of pieces, anticipating that he might lose one or two in the finishing, and all pieces are going to St. Louis. Those you don't use, you can use for buttons or something.

One piece, says Walter, is about 0.01 gram light . . . and he marked it when he handed the pieces to me, but I mixed 'em up somehow. You'll be checking them anyway.

By the way, the original piece varies in its shoulder dimension as you check it at one position to another, but I don't think that matters. Walter says he took the mean measurement.

That's all for now . . . except for my usual warm regards, Eric.

Sincerely yours,

Virgil Hancock  
grm

PS . . . I 'phoned Adna Wilde the other day, told him to delete my name from the ANA ballot. Have too much to do now, and couldn't risk getting elected.

*Walter says he'll mail me his bill in a few days.  
Will forward it then.*

Member, American Numismatic Association  
Fellow, American Numismatic Society  
Fellow, Royal Numismatic Society

Member, Asociación Numismática Española  
Member, Sociedad Numismática de México  
Member, Retail Coin Dealers Association

\*Notice: Please enclose a return stamp if you wish to receive correspondence from this office. Please do not send any return stamps.

I need a duplicate of the circular brass sample enclosed. The duplicate must weigh exactly the same as the sample, namely, 183 grains. The rest of the item can be generally the same except that the diameter of the projecting small disc on the back of the sample must be the same diameter as the sample. We will be able to polish off the last few grains of weight in St. Louis and that can be polished from the face of the back of the disc. You could, therefore, make the back of the disc a little thicker so that it could be polished down if you do not have a scale which can measure the exact weight. Apparently the original is made by putting a screw through the center and taking that screw out after one side is finished and putting it in the other side. Then the screw is taken out altogether.

A piece of brass of the proper constituency is enclosed so that you can cut the new piece out of it. There is no rush and I will be very grateful.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

July 30, 1969

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bullaire, Texas 77402

Dear Virgil:

The reason you did not hear from me is that I had a long, wonderful vacation in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Taiwan.

Your beloved cast counterfeits were floating all over the place and many of the coin peddlers knew exactly which ones were bad.

I am so sorry you are not going to be at the A.N.A. convention, but our paths will cross, soon.

The \$56.00 is enclosed as I just received the remittance from one of the parties who shared this project with me. I certainly appreciate your cooperation and am sorry there was a delay.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPM/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

May 5, 1970

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box #35  
Bellaire, Texas 77402

Dear Virgil:

We have not corresponded for a while and I thought this would be a good time to do so.

In "Featuring Fakes" in the May, 1970 NUMISMATIST, you encourage ANAT to the fullest extent.

On page 663 of the same issue, the ANA take-over of the ANAT was announced, provided the trustees of ANAT agree. This was also indicated in the President's letter on page 649. I believe in your next article you should state whether the trustees consent to the take-over or whether any of them do not.

In your article you also state that gifts to ANAT are tax deductible. I did not know you had received a ruling and wondered what the basis of your statement was.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb





Coins for the traders  
of the world.

VIRGIL HANCOCK  
BOX 936  
BELLAIRE TEXAS 77402 USA

May 9, 1970

Mr. Eric Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Good Afternoon, Eric -

A welcome letterhead just came in . . . "long time no hear" is right.

Answering first your Tax-deductible query . . .

Since an authenticating service was one of the initial six (I think, or maybe five) "planks" or objectives in the formation of OIN, and was so covered in its constitution and by-laws, and since OIN enjoys IRS certification to tax exemption for gifts, etc., OIN has been issuing receipts to all donors since ANA ceased doing so about eighteen months ago. Naturally, we had legal advice.

Answering your query about ANA and ANAT . . .

Speaking only for myself, Eric, I stated to Herb Bergen that I'd welcome ANA picking up ANAT . . . not because it's burdensome to me, as well as a daily expense of no small proportion when figured annually, but because I felt ANA would give a "respectability" to the project, would give an authoritative aura. At the same time, I told Herb, John Pittman, Abe, and two other ANA Board members, that I had two reservations . . . first, that, to my recollection, ANA did not have too good a record on "follow through" . . . that many a good idea, good project, had been voted by ANA's Board over the years, and, after one feeble announcement, nothing more was heard of it. As one tiny instance, I mentioned BONI which, as long as I was on the BONI committee, never held a meeting nor even a round-robin by mail. A somewhat larger example was coin-registration, which had extreme opposition by the then Exec-Director Jack Koch.

After all the work, time, and cash which has been poured into launching ANAT, I certainly didn't want ANAT to go the way of so many other good ideas which ANA has permitted to lag or die. Thus, I told the Board, I felt we three trustees should have a "veto power" over the ANA's selection of administrative personnel for ANAT. Again, speaking solely for myself

Member, American Numismatic Association  
Fellow, American Numismatic Society  
Fellow, Royal Numismatic Society

Member, Asociación Numismática Española  
Member, Sociedad Numismática de México  
Member, Retail Coin Dealers Association

(NE) and (N) are not to be used in the name of the American Numismatic Association. The name of the American Numismatic Association is not to be used in the name of the American Numismatic Association. The name of the American Numismatic Association is not to be used in the name of the American Numismatic Association.

Page two.

Mr. Eric Newman  
May 9, 1970

and without consultation with Abe nor John, I stated that I did not want a Walter Breen, nor any prima donna (as I understand is Don Taxay) regardless of how competent, capable is the prima donna. In my own business I learned that, even though the lad might be the best in his field in the industry, if he was a prima donna I had trouble with him and, without exception, finally had to kiss him goodbye!

The ANA Board voted its willingness to take on ANAT, with no roadmap for ANAT's operation.

Herb then countered with an offer (which first must be cleared with ANA Board) that, instead of giving us a veto power, a management committee would be named, comprising the ANA Prez, ANA Exec-Director, Abe Kosoff, yours truly, and a fifth member to be named by those four. The management committee would employ, fix salaries, locate, set operating procedures, and get ANAT rolling, and then turn ANAT over to the ANA Board.

To Herb's suggestion, Eric, I immediately agreed in an airmail missive to Herb. What Abe and John will say will be up to them. They received carbons of my letter to Herb.

I should mention, Eric, in all candidness, that when I agreed to Herb's proposal I mentally made a note to myself that, when the said management committee would have launched ANAT, I'd lobby with ANA Board members to name a small but permanent management committee, its members to have staggered lengths of terms, none of such members needing to be any of the five initial management committee. I felt . . . and still do . . . that ANA's 9-member Board is too large for efficient supervision of ANAT. In fact, I'd prefer three, rather than five.

ANAT should be incorporated as an entity separate from ANA, even though operated solely by ANA or ANA-appointed committee. I envision ANAT as ultimately serving numismatics in a broader sense than just authenticating coins. But that's a few years in the future, if ever.

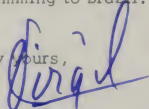
Now, Eric, you know all I know.

By the way, it will take unanimity among us three ANAT trustees to get the money out of the trust account to hand to ANA . . . three signatures are required. That was so set up that one member of the three need not worry about the other two taking the fifty grand and scrambling to Brazil.

As always, my best to you, Eric!

Virgil Hancock  
grm

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Virgil", with a stylized flourish at the end.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

August 27, 1970

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box #36  
Bellairs, Texas 77402

Dear Virgil:

There were two 1955 double die cents which you left with me at the time of the convention. They are returned herewith.

The piece in the plastic envelope is definitely a forgery, the two major telltale items being the defect at the lower end of the right stem and the depressed below the right foot of the first A in AMERICA. I have turned in several of these to the Secret Service and several others have been examined. This, apparently, is the most common type of forgery and should be destroyed.

The second piece, belonging to Mr. Dwight Helleshek, is, in my opinion, quite genuine. It is a slight improvement over my own genuine piece and if it is for sale I would like the opportunity of buying it. My reason for wanting to buy it is that it has a minimal number of dents.

Thank you, very much, for giving me the opportunity to examine these pieces.

It was a pleasure talking to you during the convention and I hope that much will be accomplished now that your goal has been reached and the matter is to be turned over to the AEA.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

ERS/atb  
Encs/


Thank you, Eric -  
for everything!

Regards, Luc

Will ask Woiteshek if he wishes to sell his '55/'55.

August 31, 1970

Mr. James Spilman



Good Afternoon, Mr. Spilman -

You may blame this missive on our mutual friend, Eric Newman.

You'll find this is a let's-get-acquainted letter, Mr. Spilman.

You possibly are aware that, for the past two years and eight months, three eager beavers . . . John Pittman (representing ANA), Abe Kosoff (representing PNG), and yours truly (representing OIN, which organization really nudged the project into motion) . . . have served as the three trustees charged with raising \$ 50,000 in folding money with which to launch a service to which one could send a coin and receive an authoritative answer to the query, "Is this coin genuine?"

The American Numismatic Authentication Trust was the name under which we banked the do-re-mi. And Clem Bailey of Numismatic News quickly shortened it to ANAT by which it's been known since.

On the ANA-St. Louis' final day's afternoon, John Hunter of Harper Woods, Michigan handed me a \$ 100 check which pushed the fund across the \$ 50,000 goal to some \$ 50,033.00. The function of us three trustees thus ended. Only the legal papers have to be prepared for ANA then to take over ANAT and put it into operation.

I have no authority whatsoever to speak for nor to act for ANA.

But, because the final St. Louis ANA board meeting had adjourned before John Hunter's check came across, the ANA board took no action toward getting ANAT into operation. And the next ANA board meeting is not, as I understand, scheduled until February. I dislike ANAT lying dormant for the next six months.

Thus, I've been asking a few numismatists, in whose judgment I have confidence, to suggest names of folks who might make a competent director or assistant director for ANAT, when ANAT finally does set up shop. Yours, Mr. Spilman, is one such name.

Page two.

Mr. James Spilman  
August 31, 1970

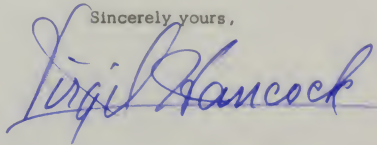
If in, say, six months away you might have any interest in such a challenging chore as ANAT's, and if you care to do so, Mr. Spilman, at your convenience you might send to me a resumé . . . as complete as possible . . . of yourself, your background, adult activities, numismatic interests and experience.

Such a resumé will be, I promise you, held in my complete confidence.

When the ANA board next does meet, I intend merely to submit one or more names as being my personal recommendation. It then will be up to ANA to do the interviewing and the deciding.

In the meantime, Mr. Spilman, my regards, and best wishes to you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Virgil Hancock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line crossing through the middle of the name.

Virgil Hancock  
grm



Coins for the traders  
of the world.

VIRGIL HANCOCK  
BOX 936  
BELLAIRE, TEXAS 77402, USA

November 5m 1971

Hi, Eric -

Here're the two .900 fine silver pieces from the new Swiss  
replica makers.

After you'll have seen their craftsmanship, then return 'em  
to me, and I shall remove the 1971 date of manufacture, beat  
'em up a bit, age 'em, and I'll bet my usual nickel that I can  
get some seedy soul to sell 'em to some coin dealer. Fire sale.  
Wanta bet?

Regards, Eric . . . and, again, 'twas very nice visiting with  
you in the wilds of Oklahoma.

Sincerely yours,

Member, American Numismatic Association  
Fellow, American Numismatic Society  
Fellow, Royal Numismatic Society

Member, Asociacion Numismática Española  
Member, Sociedad Numismática de México  
Member, Retail Coin Dealers Association

(No one has ever made a French coin in Texas, a Spanish coin in Texas, or a Roman Empire coin in Texas. Designed the type used for the letterhead.)

November 9, 1971

Dear Virgil,

Thankk for showing me these monsters.  
How many did they make before they put  
on the counterstamp?

Sincerely,

*From the desk of*  
ERIC P. NEWMAN



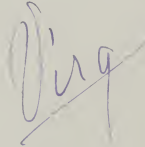
Sunday morn - 1-30 - 72

Hi, Eric -

Could you alert your Missouri Congressman James W. Symington to the need for his favorable vote on HR 10600 (Hobby Protection Act)?

Since talking with Mr. Staggers, I feel a bit more hopeful that the bill will see the floor of the House . . . but his is only one vote which, added to three Texas votes, still leaves needed one whale of a lot of letters-from-home to get the bill through the Commerce Committee.

Regards, Etic, and all the best!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Etic', with a long diagonal line drawn through it from the bottom left to the top right.

Hi, Eric -

In Alexandria, Va., you started to give me the low-down on the Iturbide paper money . . . and someone interrupted before we could pursue the story.

At your convenience, wouldst sit down and bring me up to date as to how so many of the bills now are afloat after all these years?

For what's left of '72, all the best to you, Eric!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ling". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "L" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that extends to the right.

COPIES PRINTED *Kwik-Kopy* WHILE YOU WAIT

5103 CEDAR STREET - BELLAIRE, TEXAS

(NEXT TO KELLY'S HARDWARE)

PHONE: 664 - 1359

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6456 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 5, 1973

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellaire, Texas 77402

Dear Virg:

Over the past months, I have received a substantial number of coins from ANACS for an opinion. I enjoy this work very much.

The weights are written on the coin holders and I have written to Charles that I thought every coin should have its specific gravity measured regardless whether it is sent out of Washington for an outside opinion or not. This would eliminate a great deal of work for those who give outside opinions and also improve the ability of the service itself.

I did not write to Charles about matters of die variety classification. For example: If early cents or half cents are sent to me to determine variety by Sheldon number, by Newcomb number, by Cohen number, etc. I have been glad to do the work up to now. Nevertheless, it seems tome that simple attributions of this nature from standard published work ought to be done in Washington by our Director. If he has a question, then additional opinions are satisfactory. If the only purpose for which the coin is sent out for an outside opinion is to have its die variety determined, then I think that should be done in Washington for standard items. If Colonial pieces are sent in for die variety and the Washington staff is inexperienced in that type of determination, then there is no objection to them being sent out but the office should be supplied with sufficient books on American coins to determine die varieties.

I will appreciate your comments on the foregoing.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY



# AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

VIRGIL HANCOCK

Board of Governors

P.O. Box 386, BELLAIRE, TEXAS 77401

April 6, '73

Good Morning, Eric -

Yours of the 5th is appreciated muchísimo, Eric.

1. So far as I'd known up to now, the only query to be put to any of the helpful folk on ANACS' panel was to have been, "Is this coin genuine . . . or not genuine?"

Most certainly, matters of determining die-variety classification were not envisioned as info to be supplied by the panel member.

Ignorant as am I on matters American Colonial or USA coinage, actually all the ANACS' certificates should say, or are required to convey, is (if the coin is genuine) that the coin pictured on the opposite side of the certificate has been registered as certified coin number so-and-so. I don't see that die-variety need be listed thereon.

Now, since I'm still ignorant, wouldst please list for me the texts I should buy for the ANACS office? On the Colonials and Early US, of course.

2. Next, Eric, what I'm about to cover need not be discussed with Washington office.

Since November Chuck has been pressing me to okeh an additional gal in his office. Evie, the gal from the Bureau of Engraving & Printing, was intended to be doing the weighing, dry, and measuring the specific gravity. I suspect she has yet to make her second specific gravity measurement. Chuck's pitch for another gal is that then Evie will be free to do the dry and wet weight measurements.

So long as ANACS' receipts equaled only half the payroll, none of the other overhead, I had no trouble shrugging off the plea. One robin doesn't make a summer, nor one month at break-even income ~~assure~~ assure continued break even financial condition for ANACS. Since March proved to be a break-even month, yesterday Chuck put the bee on me again for another gal in the office.

Receiving only some 15 or 20 coins a day . . . usually less . . . one girl not only should be able to handle all the paper work, but also measure the specific gravity as I'd expected her to do when we hired her. Plenty of submitted coins . . . added mintmarks, altered dates . . . certainly would not require specific gravity taken. Chuck, himself, probably does not have time to measure the specific gravity.

So my question is, Eric, how helpful is it to know the specific gravity on each coin . . . especially since most of today's counterfeiters are not cheating on the precious metal?

3. What I really feel ANACS will need shortly is another person . . . man or woman . . . with considerable knowledge of coins to be Chuck's assistant on the 'scopes. Two men I had in mind a year ago, but we couldn't assure permanant employment, and they're no longer hot prospects.

So, Eric, if you know of any "prospect" who'd be crazy enough to want to live in the Washington area, I'll be mighty grateful for his name and address.

Appreciative also am I, Eric, for the tremendous and invaluable help you've given Chuck. And, with my warm regards, I still sign off,

Sincerely yours,

PS...Groping for excuses to send some publicity poop on ANACS to the coin publications, on two occasions where not only did I have the permission of a member on the ANACS panel but where those two actually liked to see their names in print, I used those two names in my "news releases" to the coin papers.

So far as I know, not one of the others would want to have his name made public. I've told Chuck, early in the game, that we must preserve the anonymity of our panel members . . . else they'd be bombarded with letters direct from the coins' owners.

Above is mentioned because Chuck mentioned to me your concern, Eric.

Incidentally, each time some publicity appears in the coin press, Chuck reports a temporary surge in volume of coins submitted.

Regards, again, Eric.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

645<sup>th</sup> Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 10, 1973

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
American Numismatic Association  
P. O. Box 936  
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Dear Virg:

I have a few comments to make about your nice letter of April 6, 1973. I am inclined to disagree with you about the desirability of die variety work. If a person wants to know that, he certainly should receive the information. If he wants to know if a piece is of a particular variety rather than of another variety, that is service which should be given. Many of the people who pay for the service do not have numismatic books and do not even have knowledge as to what varieties exist. I think it is very important and hope you will see it my way.

As to what books to buy, I believe Charles has many of them in his personal library. Let's find out what is available before I start making a list for American pieces.

I don't see any reason for a second girl in the Washington office. It takes no time to do dry and wet weight measurements and there's no use making a simple matter complex. It doesn't have to be done to several decimal places. I feel that specific gravity is very important even though, as you say, cheating on previous metals is often avoided.

Keep up the fine work.

Kindest regards,

EPN  
atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY



Coins for the traders  
of the world.

VIRGIL HANCOCK  
BOX 936  
BELLAIRE, TEXAS 77402, USA

April 10, '74

Mr. Eric Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Good Afternoon, Eric -

Miguel Muñoz tells me that he once turned over to you some data he'd collected about a gold bar . . . such as the Xerox'd copy you'll find herewith.

Miguel has forgotten the details but hopes that you will recall the dope.

This gold bar was sold by a Mexican national to a friend of mine in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Rex Arrowsmith, with the yarn that it had been made by the Jesuit Order in Mexico, 'way back in 1745.

Rex has been stuck so many, many times on coins he's bought that I've begged him to cease and desist, to take up crocheting or ping pong as a hobby.

Anyway, Rex, swallowing the story, sold the gold bar to a dealer in Los Angeles, who, in turn, sold it to a collector, Henry B. Clifford, Clifford Associates, 639 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90014.

El Señor Clifford, not knowing I was a close friend of Rex, sent the bar to me for a look-see. So, I've told Mr. Clifford that, so far as I know, the Jesuits never saw this bar. But, when, where, and by whom it was made, I haven't the slightest idea.

At your convenience, any light you can shed on that when, where, and whom, Eric, I shall be appreciative, muchísimo!

As always, with my warm regards to you, Eric, I still sign off,

Sincerely yours,

Virgil Hancock  
ad

Member, American Numismatic Association  
Fellow, American Numismatic Society  
Fellow, Royal Numismatic Society

Member, Asociación Numismática Española  
Member, Sociedad Numismática de México  
~~Member, Royal Numismatic Society~~



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

645 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 15, 1974

Mr. Virgil Hancock ✓  
Box 936  
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Dear Virgil:

It is always nice to hear from you.

As to the matters which Miguel Munoz wrote me about, I loaned them to someone else, and if you need them I will try to get them back.

We are always glad to work on any numismatic problem, but what you have requested with respect to the 1745 bar is not the kind of problem we can help you with. You have already given your opinion to the owner and the piece has not been submitted to us for study along with available facts. If Henry Clifford wants his money back it is up to him to return the piece where he got it as he is an experienced collector who has on many prior occasions worked on authenticating items he was acquiring. If Arrowsmith has to refund, then maybe he will slow down as you have advised him. We believe the entire gold bar situation is wasting much too much time because people don't want facts. They want wild tales. Gold bars are a great opportunity to think up wild tales. Wait until you read Ted Buttrey's paper on the Mexican gold bars of various similar dates.

You will recall that a number of people were asked to attend a convention in Houston to discuss the 1732 and 1733 Mexican pieces of 8. I wrote to them that before I would be willing to go I wanted to be furnished with a written statement from the finders and owners as to the facts they knew. You had already condemned the items. I received no answer and, therefore, did not attend. I only urge everyone not to even work on pieces unless all facts are put in writing.

My kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

bcc: Dr. Ted V. Buttrey, Jr.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

June 11, 1974

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Dear Virgil:

I finally located the information Miguel Munoz had sent me concerning the Mexican bar. You will be interested in seeing who was trying to sell it. This appears to be one of the group which Ted Buttrey described in his lecture before the International Numismatic Congress.

I hope everything is getting along well at ANACS. I certainly enjoy going over many of the submittals.

Kindest regards,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah



## For A.N.A. ...and for a Positive President in '75... let's elect Virgil Hancock...he gets things done!

JOHN HUNTER  
National Campaign Chairman  
22027 Kelly Road  
EAST DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48021  
U.S.A.

Election Year . . . 1975

These are 5 possibilities . . . a possible "roadmap" by which to make the ANA Board of Governors more responsive to the ANA Membership and, at the same time, more efficient in its operation . . .

### Possibility No. 1.

To help bring new faces, new ideas, to the Board, making it mandatory that any governor, who will have served as governor for six consecutive years, must "sit out" for at least the 2 years following his or her expired sixth consecutive year.

### Possibility No. 2.

To reduce greatly the chance of a governor being elected by a minority of the votes cast, candidates for governor would file for a specific, numbered seat on the Board, such as we've used so successfully for twenty years on our Bellaire city council . . .

Position 1
" 2
" 3
" 4
" 5
" 6
" 7

That would make it easier for the ANA Membership to make clear choices.

When in 1971 I ran for ANA governor, there were 17 candidates for the 7 places on the board. And, although I was elected, being fourth highest in votes . . . 5,304 votes . . . yet the combined "also-rans" received an aggregate of 24,499 votes.

In other words, in every ANA election heretofore, some of the 7 candidates with the highest individual number of votes very likely were elected by a minority of the Members voting.

In fact, as it is today, with a field of 17 candidates, it's mathematically possible that all 7 governors could be elected by a minority of the Members voting.

### Possibility No. 3.

Staggering the expiration years for the terms of ANA governors will guarantee that there always will be some experienced governors on the Board, while at the same time may make it easier for new faces to be elected to the Board.

( Continued on Page 2 . . . )

## (Possibility No. 3, continued)

Elections for governor would be held annually by mail vote. (Elections for president and vice-president would be held by mail vote in every odd-numbered year.)

The term of governors would be 3 years, except for the required smooth transition period, during which the change would be completed by the August 1980 election.

Example:

Election year 1977 . . .	Positions 1, 2, and 3 elected for 2 years
" " " "	4 and 5 " " 3 "
" " " "	6 and 7 " " 4 "
" " 1979 . . .	" 1, 2, and 3 " " 3 "
" " 1980 . . .	" 4 and 5 " " 3 "
" " 1981 . . .	" 6 and 7 " " 3 "
" " 1982 . . .	" 1, 2, and 3 " " 3 "
" " 1983 . . .	" 4 and 5 " " 3 "
" " 1984 . . .	" 6 and 7 " " 3 "

ad infinitum !

The extra expense of a yearly election would be peanuts as compared to the added effectiveness which would result to the benefit of the ANA Membership !

Possibility No. 4.

Do you know how each board member votes?

At present . . . ANA board members now can hide how they vote by merely stating anonymously the size of each vote, for example,  
"Motion carried, 5-to-4."

Why change? . . The ANA Membership has a right to know how each board member votes, so that, in ANA elections, the ANA Membership can vote on an incumbent board member based on merit and performance.

THE CHANGE . . The minutes of all board meetings should be published in summary, and should show who voted how on what !!!

Possibility No. 5.

If ANA does not have sufficient funds to operate all its present projects properly, then some one project should be shelved temporarily to furnish adequate funds to operate the rest of ANA's projects at full-steam-ahead !

That is the procedure under which all successful business firms operate. And ANA . . . though not a commercial corporation . . . can be operated as would be a successful business organization.

- - - - -

If you'd like to see some of those possibilities become realities, your nomination of Virgil Hancock for ANA president will be helpful . . . and very much appreciated !

Sincerely,

*Virgil Hancock*

# Organization of International Numismatists

Section of the American Numismatic Association



Virgil Hancock, Past President

Box 936

Bellaire, TX 77401

Sunday afternoon,

June 8, '75

Good Afternoon, Eric -

Yesterday morn John Hunter 'phoned me, asking if I'd read the June issue "The Numismatist" . . . which I hadn't, since my copy doesn't reach Bellaire until about the 12th or 15th of each month . . . but John wouldn't tell me the "why" of his call, other than to say to read the article of several pages' length by Hal Birt and his ghostwriter Wagner.

Then, this morn, Joe Frantz also 'phoned . . . and, with him paying for the call, I didn't feel justified in asking him to read the article to me.

However, I gleaned that the article is a re-hash of the previous Birt-Wagner article to which you replied in the September '74 issue.

Of course, my guess may be wrong, and it may be an article about the new \$1000 coin in 0.999999 fine gold, legal tender in the Whozis Islands, now distributed by the XYZ Coin Corporation.

Assuming my guess is correct, I'm just wondering, Eric, if Neil Harris submitted the article to you for comment before publishing same.

I'd've thought he'd ask your opinion before publishing, since you were a sort of innocent bystander, free of any prejudice which Birt or Hancock might have.

So much on that topic.

As to my race for the ANA gavel, I fully expect George to beat the sox off me, for George is one swell fellow, and nobody ever has said anything but good of George, and the "doctrine of orderly succession" is almost bombproof.

And, if I lose, I certainly shall shed no tear. But, as you'll see from the enclosed 2-pager, I do hope I can start some thinking among the rank-and-file.

As always, Eric, with my cordial regards to you, I still sign off,

Sincerely,

September 5, 1975

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellaire, Texas 77402

Dear Virgil:

There is pending before the editor of the Numismatist an article by Theodore Buttrey on the Tubac Ingot. An opinion of ANA counsel was asked with respect to publishing it. There was also an effort to let others who might have a difference of opinion publish their comments simultaneously. I believe you will want to look into this matter as it is merely resting at the present time.

I have discussed this matter generally at the Chicago Roundtable and a collateral matter to it (the Mexican Bars) came up at the Los Angeles Roundtable.

I will be glad to discuss this matter with you if you care to do so.

Kindest regards,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

cc: Mr. Ted Buttrey



# AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

VIRGIL HANCOCK  
GOVERNOR AND IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
BOX 936, BELLAIRE, TEXAS 77401

November 22, '78

Good Afternoon, Eric -

As you know, I'm near-totally ignorant on Early US half-cents . . . as well as on a lot of other things.

But the "Red Book" . . . its pages on early US half-cents . . . interests my curiosity bug.

Seemingly nearly every date, starting with 1811, ending with 1852, lists "Restrikes."

Q - 1. Were any of those restrikes done at the Mint ?

Q - 2. Were any or all manufactured by one Dr. Frank Smith Edwards plying a restrike trade in New York ?

Q - 3. "Restrike" implies on original dies. But, in an instance or so I've found the "Red Book" has used "restrike" for a coin struck outside the Mint and NOT on Mint dies.

Probably I'm too much of a stickler for truth in advertising, but my one-man's interpretation of "restrike" is that original dies were used to make a restrike.

No hurry, Eric. To save you time, you might just jot your comments on this page, stuff it into the enclosed envelope, and head it Bellaire-ward.

Thank you, Eric. And all the very best !

Sincerely,

S



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cahill Avenue, St. Louis 8, Missouri

December 14, 1978

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellaire, TX 77401

Dear Virgil:

Your November 22, 1978 inquiry about half cents came to the right place. My cousin, Bernard Edison, is a specialist in the half cent field, both as a collector and a scholar.

As you know the 1796 Dr. Frank Smith Edwards pieces are forgeries without any connection with the Mint dies or the Mint people. It is a copy created from manually cut dies. The Red Book so states.

All of the 1831, 1836, 1840-49 inclusive, and 1852 restrikes were struck at the Mint with Mint made dies. The connivance at the Mint with politicians and for personal benefit was profuse.

The 1811 half cent restrike is neither fish nor foul. The dies were made at the Mint, apparently sold as junk and used outside the Mint by Mickley to strike the pieces. We feel that restrike is the best word even for the 1811 pieces with improper reverses.

The question as to the truth in advertising is now yours to decide.

My best for the holidays.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

See: Cohen, p. 101-102  
Breen, p. 255-263

Q1. ALL except the 1796 copy and the 1811 Mickley "restrikes" were done in the mint on mint manufactured dies.

Q2. The 1796 copy was mfrd <sup>(or at the direction of...)</sup> by Dr. Edwards using his own dies that never saw the inside of the mint. These were not restrikes but copies (or forgeries) and are so described in the red book.

Q3. ~~1811~~ The Mickley "restrikes" of 1811 were made outside the mint using discarded mint dies. The dies had been sold (or given?) to Mickley, and were eventually repurchased by the mint ~~for~~ from his estate. The coins are a muling of an 1811 obverse with an earlier style reverse, so would not meet Hancock's definition of "restrrike," quite apart from their place of mfr. and its unauthorized nature.

c. p. 101-2 As to all other Red Book mentioned restrikes:  
B. pp 256-63 (1831, 36, 40-49 incl., 52) and some other similar  
middle of col 1 items not mentioned in the Red Book (1856, 57):  
of p. 256 to  
3/4 of col 2.

All made in the mint, from genuine mint dies. Since ~~the~~ originals were made from ~~the~~ <sup>only in the case of one reverse die, the others</sup> "exactly the same" reverse dies, might not meet the strictest possible interpretation of Hancock's definition, but I think they should be called "restrikes."

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St Louis 5, Missouri

March 13, 1979

Mr. Virgil Hancock  
Box 936  
Bellaire, TX 77401

Dear Virgil:

The enclosed is being sent to Coin World and Numismatic News. Read it carefully and don't faint. Please note the contradictory position of the allegations and the receipt. You will have comments to make, I am sure.

An article of mine on these and other forgeries will be in the April Numismatist.

Thanks for your help and stimulation.

Cordially,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Encl.